

CLAIMS:

1. A method of embedding a watermark in an information signal which is compressed so as to include first signal samples having a given first value and further signal samples having a different value, the method comprising the step of modifying signal samples in accordance with a watermark pattern, characterized in that said modifying step is applied to signal samples if the modified signal sample assumes the first value due to said modification.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first value is zero and the signal samples qualified for modification are signal samples having the smallest non-zero value.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the signal samples have been quantized with a quantizer step size, and the signal samples qualified for modification are signal samples being quantized with a step size which is less than a predetermined threshold.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information signal is divided into sections and the number of signal samples qualified for modification is limited to a predetermined maximum per section.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the signal samples of a section have been quantized in accordance with a quantizer step scale, the method including the step of controlling said maximum of modified signal samples in dependence upon said quantizer step scale.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information signal is divided into sections and the signal samples of a section have been quantized in accordance with a quantizer step scale, the method including the step of controlling the positions of the signal samples qualified for modification within a section in dependence upon said quantizer step scale.

7. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1-6, wherein the compressed signal includes variable-length code words each identifying a run of first signal samples and a subsequent or preceding further signal sample, the method further comprising the steps of:

- 5 — decoding the variable-length code words into respective first and further signal samples prior to said modifying step;
- merging the modified signal sample with succeeding or preceding first signal samples to obtain a new run of first signal samples, and
- 10 — encoding the new run of first signal samples and a subsequent or preceding further signal sample into a new variable-length code word.

8. An arrangement for embedding a watermark in an information signal which is compressed so as to include first signal samples having a given first value and further signal samples having a different value, the arrangement comprising means for modifying signal samples in accordance with a watermark pattern, characterized in that the modifying means are arranged to modify signal samples if the modified signal sample assumes the first value due to said modification.

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